

From: Rollo, Dan
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/14/02 5:24pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I'm sending my comments regarding the proposed settlement involving Microsoft distributing computer hardware and software to schools. I believe this will not motivate Microsoft to stop anti-competitive behavior, and will actually hurt Microsoft competitors in the educational market.

Also, the settlement does not appear to address how to prevent Microsoft from forcing computer hardware makers to install only Windows on new machines. The Be Operating System was a viable, free alternative OS that was effectively killed by Microsoft's exclusive license with hardware manufacturers which prohibited the selling of new PC's with any other OS installed if Windows was installed on that PC. This represents a clear lack of choice for the consumer, that is perpetuated by Microsoft. Current Microsoft licensing allows Microsoft to prevent consumers from ever seeing any alternative Operating System, and this anti-competitive behavior is not addressed in the proposed settlement.

Finally, the damage done by Microsoft to the Java platform has greatly delayed the availability of alternatives to many common software programs (i.e. Office productivity applications like Word Processors and Spreadsheets) that could run on any OS. By preventing consumers from gaining access of alternative OS's and alternative Programs, Microsoft is bolstering it's monopoly position. I believe any settlement must provide enforceable constraints on such practices to prevent more damage to consumers, and I feel the current proposed settlement will not provide effective protection of consumers and our right to choose.

Thank You for you attention,
Dan Rollo

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